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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/851,871	05/09/2001	C. Frank Bennett	ISPH-0543	4942

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EXAMINER

EPPS FORD, JANET L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1635

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/851,871

Applicant(s)

BENNETT ET AL.

Examiner

Janet L. Epps-Ford, Ph.D.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2-06-04 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. (Written Description).

The instant claims are drawn to methods of treating and pharmaceutical composition comprising antisense compounds targeted to nucleic acid molecules encoding human B7 protein.

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Additionally, claims 13-14 are also drawn to an oligonucleotide which modulates the expression of an ICAM protein. However, with the exception of the nucleic acid sequences according to

The scope of the claimed invention encompasses antisense oligonucleotides that modulate (*i.e. increase or decrease*) expression of a broad genus of genes encoding ICAM protein, and antisense compounds targeted to (note that the claims do not recite that the antisense compounds inhibit or modulate the expression of human B7) a nucleic acid molecule encoding human B7 protein. This broad genus of antisense oligonucleotides is not properly described in the specification as filed. The specification as filed provides only a description of antisense compounds that are “targeted to” nucleic acid encoding human B7-1 and B7-2. However, the invention encompasses compounds that target all forms of nucleic acid encoding human B7 protein and ICAM protein, which includes sequences from other species, mutated sequences, polymorphic and allelic variants, splice variants, sequences that have an unspecified degree of identity (similarity, homology), and so forth.

See the Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications Under the 35 USC 112 ¶ 1, “Written Description” Requirement (Vol. 66, No. 4, pages 1099-1111). These guidelines state that: “To satisfy the written description requirement, a patent specification must describe the claimed invention in sufficient detail that one skilled in the art can reasonably conclude that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention. An applicant shows possession of the claimed invention by describing the claimed invention with all of its limitations using such descriptive means as words, structures, figures, diagrams, and formulas that fully set forth the claimed invention. Possession may be shown in a variety of ways including description of an actual reduction to practice, or by showing that the invention was “ready for patenting” such as by the

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disclosure of drawings or structural chemical formulas that show that the invention was complete, or by describing distinguishing identifying characteristics sufficient to show that applicant was in possession of the claimed invention.”

Moreover, according to MPEP § 2163[R-1]I.A. “The claimed invention as a whole may not be adequately described where an invention is described solely in terms of a method of its making coupled with its function and there is no described or art-recognized correlation or relationship between the structure of the invention and its function. A biomolecule sequence described only by a functional characteristic, without any known or disclosed correlation between that function and the structure of the sequence, normally is not a sufficient identifying characteristic for written description purposes, even when accompanied by a method of obtaining the claimed sequence.” In the instant case, Applicants have not provided sufficient structural information that would allow the skilled artisan to precisely predict the structure of the broad genus of compounds claimed by Applicants.

Although Applicant’s specification provide antisense compounds targeting human B7-1 (as described in Freeman et al. (1991), see page 43 of the specification as filed, lines 29-33), and targeting human B7-2 (GenBank Accession No. L25259), see also Tables 1-4, these antisense compounds cannot be used to predict the structures of all antisense compounds that target other polymeric, allelic, or splice variants of human B7 proteins or oligonucleotides targeting ICAM proteins. Absent further experimentation, the skilled artisan would not be able to predict the structures of other antisense compounds that would function in the claimed methods. Branch (1998) also teach that “Scientist seek to use the [antisense] molecules to ablate selected genes and thereby understand their functions and pharmaceutical developers are working to find

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nucleic acid based therapies. However, the antisense field has been turned on its head by the discovery of ‘non-antisense’ effects, which occur when a nucleic acid drug acts on some molecule other than its intended target-often through an entirely unexpected mechanism.” In addition, Branch teaches that the successful delivery of antisense/ribozymes *in vivo* is unpredictable, the internal structures of the targeted RNA molecules and their association with cellular proteins can render target sites totally inaccessible *in vivo*. Moreover, Branch states that “[H]owever, their (*antisense molecules and ribozymes*) unpredictability confounds research applications of nucleic acid reagents.” It is clear that due to the unpredictability regarding the behavior of antisense compounds in cells, as taught by the prior art, effective antisense compounds are generally identified empirically.

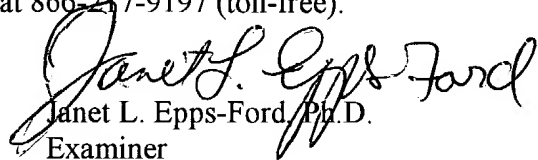
One of skill in the art would reasonably conclude that the disclosure fails to provide a representative number of species to describe the genus. Therefore, the specification does not describe the claimed compounds in such full and concise terms so as to indicate that the applicant had possession of these compounds at the time of filing of this application. Applicant is reminded that Vas-Cath makes clear that the written description provision of 35 USC 112 is severable from its enablement provision. (See page 1115.)

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janet L. Epps-Ford, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-0757. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Saturday, Flex Schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John L. LeGuyader can be reached on 571-272-0760. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Janet L. Epps-Ford, Ph.D.
Examiner
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JLE